

THE FACTS

TRASH

Every year, North Carolinians throw away enough trash to circle the earth twice.

The trash we throw into the landfill each year in North Carolina is equivalent to the weight of 7,866,666 cars a year!

The amount of waste disposed in North Carolina has increased from 6.8 million tons in 1991 to 11.86 million tons in 2007.

With the amount of trash North Carolinians throw away, we fill enough Dumpsters to line the N.C. coastline more than nine times every year.

Every 40 days, North Carolinians throw away enough trash to fill Dumpsters lining the entire North Carolina coastline.

The amount of trash North Carolinians throw away in 3.5 hours would fill Dumpsters that reach as high as Mt. Mitchell. That's 6,684 feet!

With the amount of trash North Carolinians throw away, we would fill enough Dumpsters to line the length of N.C.'s Interstate 40 more than six times in one year. That's almost 2,750 miles of Dumpsters each year.

Every 55 days, North Carolinians throw away enough trash to fill Dumpsters lining the entire route of I-40 in North Carolina. That's 420 miles.

The state picked up more than 10 million pounds of litter in 2007. That is more than one pound of litter for each of the state's 8.86 million citizens.

SOURCES: NC DWM - http://www.wastenotnc.org/DATARPTS2003_3CoIA.HTM, DOT: http://www.ncdot.org/doh/operations/dp_chief_eng/roadside/Beautification/events and NC DPPEA

NORTH CAROLINIANS THROW AWAY ENOUGH TRASH TO FILL DUMPSTERS FROM:

- Asheville to Apex every 30 days
- Asheville to Asheboro every 26 days
- Boone to Bald Head every 47 days
- Burlington to Beaufort every 26 days
- Carrboro to Carolina Beach every 21 days
- Charlotte to Cary every 20 days
- Charlotte to Shelby in just under a week
- Chowan to Cherokee every 68 days
- Clayton to Concord every 21 days
- Conover to Conetoe every 31 days
- Duck to Durham every 30 days
- Greensboro to Goldsboro every 20 days
- Monroe to Manteo every 44 days
- Winston Salem to Wilmington every 29 days
- Winston Salem to Wilson every 20 days

RECYCLING

Only half of aluminum cans are recycled despite a statewide disposal ban on the material. Other items banned from disposal in North Carolina landfills include whole tires, appliances (white goods), yard waste, lead acid batteries, used oil and antifreeze.

Data from NC DWM - <http://www.wastenotnc.org/laws.htm#state>

North Carolinians recycle 85.4 pounds of materials a second. That's impressive! But we throw away over 752 pounds of trash a second. That's almost nine times what we recycle.

Data from NC DWM - http://www.wastenotnc.org/DATARPTS2003_3CoIA.HTM and NC DPPEA.

Construction and demolition is the largest waste stream in the state, accounting for about 32 percent of all disposed waste. Recycling facilities are being developed around the state for these materials. Habitat for Humanity operates "Re-Stores" in some North Carolina communities, accepting donations and selling reusable construction materials.

Data from NC DWM - http://www.wastenotnc.org/DATARPTS2003_3CoIA.HTM and NC DPPEA - <http://www.p2pays.org/dmrm/start.aspx>

NC throws away about 270 million dollars worth of recyclable goods each year.

Data from Scott's Commodity Summary/Waste Stream Analysis and RBAC newsletters - <http://www.p2pays.org/rbac/newsletters.html>

Aluminum and glass companies rely heavily on secondary materials for their product, and many plastics manufacturers also depend on recovered material.

Ultimately, the major industrial sectors would suffer severe difficulties if the supply of recycled materials suddenly disappeared.

Data from - <http://www.p2pays.org/dmrm/start.aspx>

Recycling in North Carolina is a job creator and a growing part of our state's economy. Recycling employs more than 14,490 North Carolinians and recycling jobs have increased about 13 percent in the last four years.

The state's 1994 edition of the Directory of Markets for Recyclable Materials listed 306 companies; in 2008 that number was up to 581, for a 90 percent rise in only 14 years. That means more materials are being recovered, more jobs are being created, and more money is flowing through our economy - all because of recycling!

A 2003 study found that private sector recyclers employed 12,776 people across the state. A similar study in 2008 documented 14,490 employed in recycling industry, an increase of over 13 percent in only four years. If we assume a low average wage of \$25,000/year for these workers, recycling creates a \$377 million payroll for North Carolina each year, which is plowed back into the economy through consumer purchasing, home-buying, savings in local banks, and paying of property and income taxes.

ALUMINUM

- North Carolinians throw away more than \$74,072,000 in aluminum cans each year.
- Recycling an aluminum can saves 95 percent of the energy required to make the same amount of aluminum from virgin materials.
- The pollutants created in producing one ton of aluminum include 3,290 pounds of red mud, 2,900 pounds of carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas), 81 pounds of air pollutants and 789 pounds of solid wastes.

More info found at the Aluminum Association - http://www.aluminum.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=News_Statistics

GLASS

Data below from NC DWM - http://www.wastenotnc.org/DATARPTS2003_3CoIA.HTM and NC DPPEA.

- N.C. throws away enough glass each year to fill up over 11,800 tractor-trailers. If you put those tractor-trailers end to end they'd stretch from Asheville to Greensboro.
- Each month, North Carolinians throw out glass that would fill up more than 13 miles worth of tractor-trailers lined up end-to-end. That's a half marathon of tractor-trailers each month!
- Glass bottles can be used hundreds of times over to make new bottles. North Carolina has three glass plants capable of consuming thousands of tons of "cullet" or recovered glass.
- Producing glass from virgin materials requires 30 percent more energy than producing it from crushed, used glass.

More info found at Glass Packaging Institute - <http://www.gpi.org/recycling/environment/>

PAPER

- North Carolinians throw away more than \$164,375,460 in mixed paper each year.
- Each year, N.C. throws away enough potentially recyclable paper to fill over 1000 soccer fields three feet deep.
- Last year NC trashed enough paper to fill 1558 football fields three feet deep.
- Almost 80 percent of U.S. paper mills rely on recovered recycled paper. In fact it supplies 37 percent of their material.
- Producing recycled paper requires about 60 percent of the energy used to make paper from virgin wood pulp.
- One ton of uncoated virgin (non-recycled) printing and office paper uses 24 trees.
- Producing recycled paper causes 74 percent less air pollution and 35 percent less water pollution than producing virgin paper.
- One ton of paper made from recycled scrap paper saves 7,000 gallons of water.
- Recycled paper production uses 59 percent less water compared to paper production from virgin resources. Typically, older virgin paper mills will use 100 pounds of water to make one pound of paper. More info found at the American Forest and Paper Association - <http://stats.paperrecycles.org>

PLASTIC

- North Carolinians throw away more than \$41,411,600 in plastic each year.
- Producing new plastic from recycled material uses only two-thirds of the energy required to manufacture it from raw materials. More info found at The American Chemistry Council - <http://www.americanchemistry.com>

STEEL

- North Carolinians throw away more than \$16,819,500 in steel each year.
 - Steel is one of the most recycled materials with a 68 percent national recycling rate. Many steel products are recycled at a high rate in North Carolina, though less than 15 percent of steel cans are recovered.
- Data from NC DWM - http://www.wastenotnc.org/DATARPTS2003_3CoIA.HTM and NC DPPEA.
- Nearly all the steel made in the U.S. and in the world is made from scrap.
 - Every ton of steel recycled saves 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,400 pounds of coal and 120 pounds of limestone.
 - Recycling one ton of steel reduces air pollution by 86 percent and water pollution by 76 percent, and saves 74 percent of the energy and 40 percent of the water that would have otherwise been used.

GET THE FACTS AT:

REC3.org
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